IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

NISHIOKA Atty. Ref.: 249-338

Appl. No. To Be Assigned TC/A.U. Not Yet Assigned

Filed: April 22, 2004 Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: HEAD MAINTENANCE MECHANISM FOR INK JET PRINTER AND INK JET

PRINTER INCORPORATING THE SAME

* * * * * * * * * *

April 22, 2004

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In order to place the above-identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 9.